

Message Text

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70

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-09 ISO-00 AEC-07 AECE-00

ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 NAS-01 NSF-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

INT-05 AF-06 CIEP-02 FPC-01 SAM-01 CEQ-01 EPA-04

CEA-01 MC-02 XMB-04 /157 W
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R 171733Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5961

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 01489

DEPT FOR OES/SCI/AE, PASS AEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, TGEN

SUBJECT: US-FRENCH FIRMS REACH AGREEMENT ON FAST
BREEDER NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS

REF: PARIS A-71, FEB 1, 1974 B) PARIS 141

SUMMARY: CEA SUBSIDIARY TECHNICATOME AND BECHTEL
HAVE AGREED TO STUDY THE INDUSTRIAL POSSIBILITIES
OF THE FRENCH FAST BREEDER TECHNOLOGY. THE AGREE-
MENT REFLECTS THE LONG-STANDING FRENCH AMBITION TO
MARKET THEIR BREEDER TECHNOLOGY WORLD-WIDE, PARTI-
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CULARLY IN THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

1. TECHNICATOME, WHICH IS A SUBSIDIARY OF THE COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE FOR CONSTRUCTING ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTORS, SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH BECHTEL, CALLING FOR A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF USING FRENCH SODIUM-COOLED FAST BREEDER REACTOR TECHNOLOGY ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE RELEASED BY THE CEA, THIS STUDY WILL SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR THE TWO PARTNERS TO EVALUATE ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS THE INDUSTRIAL POSSIBILITIES OF FRENCH BREEDER TECHNOLOGY IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER PROVEN DESIGNS. TECHNICATOME DIRECTOR PIERRE ZALESKI TOLD SCIATT THAT THE STUDY WOULD TAKE AT LEAST 18 MONTHS. EACH SIDE WILL PAY ITS SHARE OF THE COSTS. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE AGREEMENT DID NOT TOUCH ON THE QUESTION OF A LICENSE TO MANUFACTURE THE BREEDER.
2. THE CEA HAS IN THE PAST DISCUSSED COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING FAST BREEDER TECHNOLOGY ALSO WITH STONE AND WEBSTER AND GENERAL ELECTRIC AS WELL AS WITH THE SOVIETS.
3. COMMENT: THE FRENCH HAVE NOT HIDDEN THEIR HOPES TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE POTENTIAL U.S. MARKET (REF A SUMMARY) AND TO THE INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY AND EXPERIENCE OF U.S. FIRMS. WITHOUT EXPORTATION AND COOPERATION, THEY WOULD BE HARDPRESSED TO DEVELOP THE INDUSTRIAL BASE NECESSARY TO BUILD FAST BREEDER POWER REACTORS COMPETITIVE WITH RIVAL CONVENTIONAL DESIGNS (REF B, PARA 27). GIVEN THE STRONG BRITISH AND GERMAN BREEDER PROGRAMS, THE FRENCH ARE LIKELY TO MEET SERIOUS INTERNAL COMPETITION FOR THE EUROPEAN MARKET DESPITE THEIR PRESENT TECHNOLOGICAL EDGE. THEREFORE, THEY LOOK TO THE U.S. WHERE BREEDER DEVELOPMENT LAGS. HOWEVER, THE AGREEMENT WITH BECHTEL IS A SMALL STEP CALLING ONLY FOR A JOINT STUDY. IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO INVOLVE ANY TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS01489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750019-0724
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750142/aaaabkti.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARIS A-71, 75 FEB 1, 75 1974, 75 PARIS 141
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <25 Nov 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-FRENCH FIRMS REACH AGREEMENT ON FAST BREEDER NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS
TAGS: TECH, TGEN, US, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006